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## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Date:** October 19, 2017  
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### **8th Annual Branson ArborFest** **Sponsored by the City of Branson Tree Board**

The City of Branson Tree Board hosted the eighth annual Branson Arborfest on Friday, October 13th. This year, the Tree Board and volunteers planted a Dawn Redwood tree at the Branson Recplex, two Northern Red Oak memorial trees in honor of Rhon Davis at Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area and two memorial trees at the Branson Community Center in honor of Verna Hawkins and Tad Houston.

The trees honoring Rhon Davis were donated by Ozarks Family Vision Center where his brother, Dr. Rick Davis is an optometrist. Dr. Davis stated his brother served his professional career as a school psychologist in Topeka, Kansas where he was known for helping children through difficult times, yet he received great joy when those students grew into happy and healthy adults. Dr. Davis thought it to be a fitting tribute to plant the trees near the new playground equipment at Lakeside Forest as a happy and healthy place for children to play.

The tree planted in honor of Verna Hawkins recognizes her love for her family and the Branson Community. A resident of Grafton, Illinois, Ms. Hawkins was well-known to spend time in Branson taking care of family members. The family planted the tree in her honor to be in a place she loves and to remember her by.

Tad Houston served with the Branson Utilities Department as an Office Assistant. He passed away earlier this year. A tree was planted at the Community Center to honor his legacy of being a husband and father, an avid fisherman, a love for muscle cars and guitars, and helped area youth involved in the Branson Schools Trap Team.

The Arbor Day event began as a way to promote fall as the optimum time to plant trees and shrubs. Autumn is a less stressful time of year to plant or transplant vegetation, as the air temperatures are cooler and less water is lost through the plants leaves. It also provides time for the root systems to develop before the upcoming growing season.

In addition to planting, fall is the ideal time to mulch all of your trees and shrubs. A few reasons to mulch are providing protection to the roots, protecting the tree trunk from mower and weed-eater damage as well as providing a weed barrier. However, mulch should be applied properly to ensure the tree's health and watering a newly planted tree is critical for establishment to take place before the ground freezes. The preferred amount of water is 10 gallons per caliper inch, per week, if sufficient rainfall does not occur.

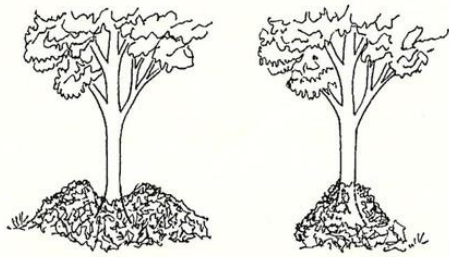
For further information please contact Perry Eckhardt at 337-8544 or [peckhardt@bransonmo.gov](mailto:peckhardt@bransonmo.gov).



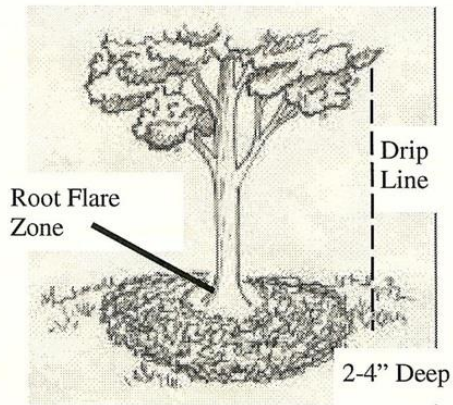
The family of Tad Houston along with several Branson community members and employees plant a tree in his memory at the Branson Community Center.



Perry Eckhardt, Senior Planner in the Branson Planning/Development Department (Left) and Clark Harris, a member of the Branson Tree Board (Right) plant a tree at the Branson Rec Plex as part of Arbor Day 2017 activities.



Incorrect Mulching



Proper Mulching Method

Photo courtesy of: [http://giatally.weebly.com/uploads/9/6/8/2/9682187/6022348\\_orig.jpg](http://giatally.weebly.com/uploads/9/6/8/2/9682187/6022348_orig.jpg)